GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1753
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
REHABILITATIN OF NARMADA DAM PROJECT OUSTEES
VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any in-ordinate delay in the rehabilitatin of land oustees of Narmada Dam Project;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the rehabilitation work?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) In the Narmada Basin 30 major projects are proposedand Sardar Sarovar Project is the terminal inter-State project. The Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) of the ProjectAffected Families (PAFs)of the Sardar Sarovar Project is the responsibility of the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. These Stateshave been trying their best for the R&R of the PAFs in a time bound manner. However, there has been delay in the R&R and construction of the dam due to the Writ Petition filed by the Narmada Bachao Andolan in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in 1994. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India inits judgement dated 18.10.2000 has laid down a mechanism for further raising of the dam height pari-passu with the R&R of PAFs by the respective States and approved an action plan for further raising the height of the dam. As per this plan the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam has to be raised upto elevation (EL) 100 metre by June, 2002 and 110 metre by June, 2003. At present the dam height has been raised upto EL 95 metre and all the PAFs up to this height have already been resettled. The process of R&R of PAFs between EL 95 to 100 metre has almost been completed in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and R&R of few PAFs in Maharashtraincluding development of civic amenities at one resettlement site are in progress. As soon as these are completed to the satisfaction of the monitoring agencies the Narmada Control Authority (NCA) will permit the raising ofSardar Sarovar Dam height from EL 95 to 100 metre. The Union Ministry of Water Resourcesand NCA are pursuing the matter with the concerned State Governments for early completionof R&R of PAFs as per the approved action plan. Further, the State Governments are also pursued for early completion of the R&R of PAFs upto the full reservoir level of the Sardar Sarovar Dam so as to complete it as early as possible for raising the dam to full height.